

**The Royal School for the Blind  
Liverpool**

**182nd Annual Report**

**1972-73**

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND  
LIVERPOOL**

Established 1791   Incorporated 1829

*With the  
Secretary's  
Compliments*

Administrative Office :  
549 SMITHDOWN ROAD  
LIVERPOOL L15 5AF  
Telephone : 051 - 733 4782

# THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

Established 1791. Incorporated 1829.

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## **Patron:**

Her Majesty the Queen

## **President:**

J. C. Smyth, Esq.

## **Vice-Presidents:**

Mrs. V. F. Crosthwaite      Mrs. A. P. Wise      A. S. Eccles, Esq.

## **Treasurer:**

A. A. Hawkins, Esq.

## **Management Committee:**

J. F. Allan, Esq.	A. S. Eccles, Esq.	Mrs. S. Hall	I. R. Petrie, Esq.
J. C. Smyth, Esq.	A. J. Wannop, Esq.	A. A. Hawkins, Esq.	P. Scott, Esq.
Mrs. B. S. Clarke	A. Humphreys, Esq.	Mrs. J. H. Marsland	Dr. R. McL. Todd
C. G. Tomkinson, Esq.			

## **Auditors:**

Messrs. Chalmers, Impey & Co., Chartered Accountants

## **Bankers:**

Midland Bank, Rodney Street, Liverpool, L1 2TP

## **Solicitors:**

Messrs. Alsop Stevens Batesons & Co.

## **Consulting Insurance Brokers:**

Messrs. Griffiths & Armour

## **Architect and Surveyor:**

D. Wall, Esq., B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A.

## **Secretary and Bursar:**

T. C. Milburn, Esq.

## **Administrative Offices:**

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool, L15 5AF  
Telephone: 051 - 733 4782

## **Wavertree School:**

Church Road North, Liverpool, L15 6TQ  
Telephone: 051 - 733 1012

# WAVERTREE SCHOOL

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## **Headmaster:**

H. S. D. Marks, Esq.

## **Matron and Housekeeper:**

Miss E. J. Forshaw

## **Hon. Physician and Surgeon:**

Dr. G. S. Roberts

## **Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon:**

Mr. D. M. J. Burns, F.R.C.S.

## **Hon. Dental Surgeon:**

Mr. J. Furness, L.D.S.

## **Hon. Chaplain:**

Rev. K. M. Forrest, M.A.

## **Teaching Staff:**

Miss D. E. Wares (Deputy Head)

B. Hechle, Esq. (Senior Master)

R. L. Delacruz, Esq.

Miss C. Stump

R. D. Barlow, Esq.

Miss C. A. Reid

Miss D. M. Glasman

Miss C. Wilkinson

Mrs. J. A. Owen

## **Music Department:**

Miss Flora Cann, L.R.A.M.      J. R. Taylor, Esq., L.R.A.M.

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1972-73

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## REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Committee of Management have pleasure in presenting their 182nd Annual Report.

## WAVERTREE SCHOOL

The challenge and responsibility of educating visually handicapped children in this region continued unabated during the year. The high rate of children seeking admission which was very noticeable in 1972 continued through 1973. At the end of the year there were 89 children in residence and two day pupils. Details of the numbers in the School over the past three years indicate this upward surge :—

July 1971 — 74 children

July 1972 — 87 children

July 1973 — 91 children

Future admission figures suggest that this may, however, be a peak as there is some fall of admissions in recent months.

As reported last year over half of these new entrants to the School had a further handicap in addition to a loss in vision. These additional handicaps bring complex problems for all. Staff ratios need to be constantly reviewed and Staff have to continually evaluate their teaching programmes and the needs of the children.

During the year the Staff attended a variety of Courses to keep abreast of the changing pattern in the Education of the Visually Handicapped. One of the most stimulating and rewarding Courses was conducted by the College of Teachers of the Blind at the Training College, Derby.

Fourteen children left at the end of the academic year :—

Colin Dunscombe — passed entrance examination for  
Worcester College

Julie Wilkinson  
Susan Potter  
Heulwen Pritchard  
Maureen Levy } — passed entrance examination  
to Chorleywood College, London

Susan Lavender  
Lyn Cocksey  
Steven Cooke  
Robert Ford  
Leonard Nicholson  
Ian Berry } — transferred to Lickey Grange School,  
Bromsgrove

Andrew Gibson  
Deborah Page  
Alan Shannon } — awaiting placement in  
other Schools

The normal activities of the School continued throughout the year. Open Days, Christmas activities, Visit of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, School Outing to Southport, Youth Hostelling to The West Riding of Yorkshire, week-end visit to London, and Theatre Visits.

A special feature during the past years in the life of the School has been the emphasis we have placed on Open Days. These occasions are geared to show the parents, their friends, and representatives from Education Authorities as much as possible of the life of the School, and our approach to the educational problems of the children. It is essential that we enable parents and Educational Authorities to understand the nature of a visual problem and how the child can be helped and understood at all levels.

Although the Staff are available at all times to see, help and advise parents, six days are set aside so that parents and friends can be involved in the education and welfare of their children.



## **BRAILLE READING**

As usual, the children took part in the Northern Braille Reading Competition. Two children, Susan Lavender and Nicola Walker were successful in being 3rd in the 9 - 12 age group and 3rd in the under-9 age group respectively.

## **MUSIC**

Various festivals of music were attended and the children obtained a variety of awards and certificates. In the Examinations of the Royal School of Music the following results were obtained :—

Susan Potter	— Merit Grade 1
Heulwen Pritchard	— Merit Grade 1
Brian Jones	— Merit Grade 1
Colin Dawson	— Distinction Grade 1
Derek Thorburn	— Distinction Grade 1

Standards of musical appreciation and attainment remain high, and this important subject continues to give a great deal of pleasure to both pupils and Staff.



## WAVERTREE SCHOOL — DEVELOPMENT

All Institutions large and small have periods when, for changing political, social and economic reasons, they must review their responsibilities to the Society they serve. The Vernon Committee Report for the Education of the Visually Handicapped will, if adopted by Parliament, provide a changing pattern of Education at Wavertree and other Schools serving the visually handicapped. An increased emphasis on day attendance, where possible, and the provision of some education for those children under five years of age are only two of wide ranging recommendations.

Even before the Vernon Committee's recommendations it was obvious that there was a need for children to be admitted to Wavertree before reaching the age of five years. For this purpose a Nursery Unit was set up. Meanwhile, Clifton House, a large house adjacent to the School, became available and negotiations were completed to purchase the house in July, 1972, at a cost of £15,000.



The works to alter the house are at present taking place. They are expected to cost over £25,000 and the alterations should be completed by January, 1974.

The decision to purchase Clifton House, taken when the Vernon Committee's recommendations were not known and before the Nursery Unit was fully in operation, has proved to be far sighted and has given an excellent foundation for this necessary extension of Wavertree's Educational service.

During the year considerable progress has been made in the provision of further classrooms for the School. The real need for these was first apparent in 1968-69, and plans were drawn up for the project and deferred. However, there have been strong demands educationally for the replacement of classrooms which were part of education's heritage from the Victorian era. They were therefore scheduled to be erected during 1972-73.

However, as the original plans were not now suitable they had to be re-planned and work is now expected to commence in the early months of 1974.

The scheme provides for 4 classrooms, typewriting room, language laboratory, some living accommodation and a large resource area.

Costs of this work are anticipated to be in the region of £85,000 and in addition much new equipment will be needed.

The classrooms which will provide more efficient teaching areas will also release valuable space in the main building.

## **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Annual Accounts have been printed separately and can be obtained from the Administrative Office.



**Children's**



## Activities

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mrs. V. F. Crosthwaite of Woolton, who had served on the Committee continuously since 1958 and on the former Ladies Committee for a further ten years prior to this, resigned in March, 1973. The Committee were unanimous in asking her to carry on her links with us as Honorary Vice-President, which she was pleased to do. We regret the loss of her vast experience, but are grateful that for so many years she was able to give so much of her time and interest.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

All of those Donors and Subscribers who have helped in the past will, in a number of months, see very clearly the developments they have made possible. To be able to teach our children in new large, well-equipped classroom areas and to give the younger children Clifton House away from the main activities at Wavertree was made possible by those who so devotedly support us.

To mention only a few, the Taxi Drivers, Rex Makin, John Mass, The Eton Bowling Club, Billy Martin's Dance Studios, Edgehill Motive Power Social & Welfare Club, T. & J. Harrison Ltd., The Variety Club and The Merseyside Junior Chamber of Commerce. The list is endless, nor does it do justice to those who give frequently.

We are specially grateful to The Merseyside Hospital Council who provided the School's Mobility Department with a Ford Escort estate car, and by doing so gave all of our children the opportunity to benefit by the extra tuition possible in this very important science.

The Management Committee express their appreciation to all those, whether mentioned or not, who have in any way helped us in the past year.

They also thank members of Staff for their loyal and efficient service.

## OBITUARY

During the year we mourned the deaths of two of the most respected and admired personalities to have served the School in the last three decades:—

**Miss R. A. McGregor** — Matron of Wavertree for nearly 18 years died on December 10th, 1972. Her loss was felt so keenly that no announcement to the children was made until they returned from their Christmas Holidays. Miss McGregor had fought a long battle against illness which had affected the years prior to her death. She was never self-pitying and was a source of inspiration to those who worked with her and knew of her courage. A Memorial Service was held in her honour at the Wavertree Parish Church. The numbers who attended the service testified to the great impact she had made on all of those who surrounded her during her work at Wavertree.

**Dr. Edward Blair Wilkinson** — died quite suddenly on the 4th June, 1973. He had been critically ill some months previously but had overcome this severe setback. He was the School's Consultant Medical Officer from 1946 to 1967, only relinquishing his appointment on his retirement from active medical practice. He will be best remembered by us all at the Royal School for the Blind for his constant and unwavering interest in the children, for whom no effort was spared in spite of large commitments elsewhere in the Medical Service. That he was accepted at Wavertree School almost as a member of Staff is indicative of the quiet and good natured way he carried out his duties.

It is sad that during the year two of the most professional of our friends have been lost. The heritage that they have passed on to us, and the memory of their dedication will act as a challenge and a spur to those carrying on.

## MEMBERSHIP

By the Act of Incorporation any person donating a sum of £10 at any one time or subscribing £1.05 or more per year to the Charity becomes a member.

New Members during the year are listed below:—

F. Faragher, Liverpool 12.  
Clubmoor Conservative Men's Club, Liverpool 11.  
Federated Fruit Co., Liverpool 2.  
Variety Club of Great Britain, Liverpool Branch.  
Bear Brand Recreation Club, Liverpool 25.  
Merseyside Junior Chamber of Commerce.  
Card Centre, 45 Bold Street, Liverpool 1.  
Billy Martin's Dance Studios, Liverpool 13.  
Oldchurch Old Boys, Liverpool 2.  
Rex Makin, Liverpool 15.  
John Mass, Liverpool 2.  
J. Bibby & Sons Ltd., Liverpool 3.  
Unit Construction Co. Ltd., Liverpool 24.



The Seal of the School for the Indigent Blind.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND LIVERPOOL**

- 1791 The Liverpool School for the Indigent Blind was opened in Commutation Row. This was the first School for the Blind to be established in the British Isles and second only to Paris in the world. The School was founded by Edward Rushton, who was blinded at sea when 19 years of age and became a bookseller in Paradise Street, Liverpool. He received considerable help from his friend J. Christie, a blind musician who became one of the first teachers in the Institution. The Reverend Henry Dannett, The Vicar of St. John's, Liverpool, hearing of the scheme from Edward Rushton, became co-founder and played a large part in obtaining the support of the inhabitants of Liverpool and the North West to the venture. He managed the Institution until 1793, when the Management was taken over by a Committee drawn from the Members of the Charity.
- 1800 The School moved to a newly constructed building in Duncan Street, Liverpool, which provided residential accommodation.
- 1806 His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, visited the School and became its Patron. This Royal Patronage has extended up to the present day.
- 1819 The Chapel of the School for the Blind was built adjoining the School, and was famous for the quality of its music and services.
- 1829 An Act of Incorporation was passed in Parliament, which regulated the government of the School and the Chapel.
- 1851 The School moved to new premises in Hardman Street, and the Chapel was taken down and re-erected alongside the School.



- 1898 The Wavertree School for Blind Children was built for the education of school age children. Hardman Street School remained as a technical and training centre for the adult blind. At the time of the erection of Wavertree School, a donation of £10,000 was made, approximately one third of the cost. The donor was Miss Mary Hornby of Walton, whose generosity to Wavertree School during its early years was extensive.
- 1928 The Chapel for the Blind was closed and services discontinued. The site on which the Chapel had stood was later used for an extension of the Hardman Street School and provided for the erection of sales departments, workshops, and domestic science training areas.
- 1945 Under the Education Act, 1944, the Wavertree School became the Junior School for the North West. Secondary School age children were transferred to Henshaw's, Manchester. Hardman Street became the Technical School in the North West for all blind adolescent students.
- 1957 Due to changing social conditions and the availability of open industry to blind trainees, the Technical School at Hardman Street closed.
- During 1972 the Bronze Doors, which were an important feature of the Hardman Street School, were removed and sited at Wavertree.
- 1966 By the Liverpool Corporation (General Powers Act) 1966, the institution was renamed The School for the Blind, Liverpool. In July of the same year, Her Majesty the Queen graciously commanded that the title should become The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool.



## LEGACIES

The following Legacies received during the year are gratefully acknowledged:—

The late	£   p.
Miss J. Laidlaw, per Messrs. Ayrton & Alderson Smith, Solicitors, Liverpool 2     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	100·00
Miss Ruby Jack, per Midland Bank Executor & Trustee Co. Ltd., Liverpool 2     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	933·54
Miss Mary Elizabeth Ellis, per Messrs. Lowndes & Co., Solicitors, Liverpool 2     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	1,345·70
Mrs. C. Windsor, per Rev. Gordon Williams, St. Helens     ...	5·00
Mr. H. M. D'Arcy Hutton, per Highfield Pritchard & Mumby, Accountants, Liverpool 2     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	500·00
Mr. Reginald De Haas, per John H. Behn, Twyford & Co., Solicitors, Liverpool 2     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	20·00

## FORM OF BEQUEST

The following Form of Bequest is recommended to those who may wish to assist the School by way of Legacies.

I GIVE and bequeath to THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL, Administrative Office, 549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool L15 5AF, the sum of . . . . . absolutely and free of duty for the general purposes of the said School AND SO THAT the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper Officer of the said School for the time being shall be a good discharge of such legacy to my Trustees and so that my Trustees shall not be responsible to see to the application thereof.

# **THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**

Recognised by the Department of Education & Science

Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948 and the Charities Act, 1960

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## **INFORMATION FOR DONORS AND SUBSCRIBERS**

The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool, being a Charity, is not liable to Income Tax, but generally all subscribers have to pay tax on the income out of which payment is made for subscriptions. The School is allowed under the Income Tax Acts to recover any tax paid by the Subscriber in relation to a subscription, but only if a seven-year deed of covenant has been signed. Thus £1 per annum for seven years becomes £10·01 after recovery of the tax and £5 per year would become £50·05 at the standard rate of tax.

Copies of covenant, donation and bankers order forms are enclosed with this report, or can be obtained.

## **OLD PUPILS' FUND**

This fund enables the Committee to keep in touch with all pupils who after training, may require advice or financial help. During the past year the fund has provided grants to old pupils in addition to meeting the production costs of the "Wavertarian", the magazine which provides a link between the Old Pupils.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS**

Are received by A. A. Hawkins, Esq., Treasurer, Midland Bank Ltd., 32 Rodney Street, Liverpool, the Liverpool Council of Social Service, 14 Castle Street, Liverpool, and the Secretary.

Any further information can be obtained from:—

Secretary/Bursar,  
Administrative Office,  
Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool,  
549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool, L15 5AF.

# **The Royal School for the Blind Liverpool**

## **Accounts**

**For the Year ended 31st March, 1973**

**Administrative Offices :**  
459 Smithdown Road,  
Liverpool, L15 5AF.  
051 - 733 4782.

**GENERAL CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1973**

	1973		1972	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Annual subscriptions		94		69
Donations		1,623		1,059
Legacies		2,905		1,947
Proportion of local collection of the Royal National Institute for the Blind		1,577		1,279
Income from investments, gross —				
General Fund		6,180		6,210
Endowment Funds		236		235
Bank Interest		186		329
		<u>12,801</u>		<u>11,128</u>
TRANSFER FROM EDUCATION ACCOUNT				
Deficit (1972 — Surplus) for year	(1,549)		797	
Adjustment in respect of prior year (Note 3)	<u>6,245</u>		<u>—</u>	
		4,696		797
		<u>17,497</u>		<u>11,925</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Management expenses	2		12	
Pensions	569		672	
Gifts to pupils	155		187	
Miscellaneous	202		49	
Publicity	<u>1,179</u>		<u>—</u>	
		(2,107)		(920)
SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL FUND		<u>£15,390</u>		<u>£11,005</u>

# OLD PUPILS' FUND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1973

	1973		1972	
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Investment Income ... ..		155		155
DEDUCT: EXPENDITURE				
Grants ... ..	100		140	
The Waverterian Magazine ... ..	44		32	
	<u>          </u>	(144)	<u>          </u>	(172)
SURPLUS (1972 — DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
TO OLD PUPILS' FUND ... ..		£11		(£17)

## EDUCATION ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1973

	1973	1972
INCOME	£	£
Augmentation of blind employees' wages ...	758	633
Fees from Local Education Authorities ... ..	90,345	75,540
Miscellaneous ... ..	51	9
	<u>91,154</u>	<u>76,182</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries and wages ... ..	59,072	47,659
Maintenance and upkeep of buildings ... ..	16,048	14,364
Supplies and equipment ... ..	11,801	9,524
Transport ... ..	715	572
Establishment expenses ... ..	5,067	3,266
	<u>92,703</u>	<u>75,385</u>
DEFICIT (1972—Surplus) for year ... ..	(1,549)	797
Adjustment in respect of prior year		—
Rate Refund (Note 3) ... ..	6,245	
SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL CHARITY ACCOUNT ... ..	<u>£4,696</u>	<u>£797</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AS

LIABILITIES		1973	1972
GENERAL FUND —		£	£
Surplus Account:			
Balance at 1st April 1972 ... ..	126,929		119,781
Add: transfer from General Charity Fund account ... ..	15,390		11,005
		142,319	130,786
Deduct: alteration to premises and inci- dental cost of Clifton House ...	2,904		707
Capital cost of Clifton House ...	13,500		1,500
loss on revaluation of investments ...	—		1,650
		(16,404)	(3,857)
		125,915	126,929
Creditors and provisions ... ..		7,095	7,711
		133,010	134,640
ENDOWMENT FUND —			
The Cort Fund ... ..	1,437		1,437
Roger Lyon Jones Trust Fund ... ..	719		719
Sir Henry Lucy Fund ... ..	719		719
David Malcolmson Fund ... ..	719		719
Edward Wadsworth Fund ... ..	633		633
		4,227	4,227
OLD PUPILS' FUND —			
Surplus Account:			
Balance 1st April 1972 ... ..	2,570		2,587
Add: surplus (1972 deduct deficiency) ...	11		(17)
		2,581	2,570
		£139,818	£141,437

REPORT OF  
TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL

In our opinion the accounts and notes  
view of the state of affairs at 31st March 1973  
and of the surplus for the year ended on the  
LIVERPOOL

31st October, 1973.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1973**

## REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

In our opinion the accounts and notes set out on pages 2 to 7 give a true and fair state of affairs at 31st March 1973 of The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool, surplus for the year ended on that date.

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# THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

### 1. FIXED ASSETS

The Balance Sheet does not include the following assets owned by the School, all of which have been written off against the General Fund in past years:

Land and buildings at Smithdown Road, Menlove Avenue and Wavertree,  
Machinery, furniture and equipment.

The School also owns a minibus which was a gift.

During the year the balance of the cost of Clifton House, Wavertree was paid and written off against the General Fund.

### 2. INVESTMENTS

Market value at  
31st March 1970  
or subsequent cost  
or valuation

#### GENERAL FUND

##### Narrower range:

	£
£4,000.00 London County Council 6% Stock 1975/78	3,200
£5,000.00 Swansea Corporation 5½% Red. Stock 1976/78	4,000
£4,356.75 Mersey Docks & Harbour Company 3½% Debenture Stock 1970/80	1,007
	<u>8,207</u>

##### Wider range:

5,432.32 units Save & Prosper Financial Securities Fund	2,610
£15,000.00 Midland Bank Finance Corp (Jersey) Ltd.	15,000
32,220 units Equities Investment Fund for Charities	29,569
	<u>47,179</u>

##### Special range:

40,754 units Charities Official Investment Fund	41,817
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**Total General Fund** ... .. £97,203  
(Market value at 31.3.73: £122,410)

#### ENDOWMENT FUNDS

##### Special range:

3,754 units Charities Official Investment Fund	£3,893
(Market value at 31.3.73: £4,620)	<u>          </u>

#### OLD PUPILS' FUND

##### Wider range:

£1,164.00 Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Perp. 4% Debenture Stock	489
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##### Special range:

1,739 units Charities Official Investment Fund	1,803
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(Market value at 31.3.73: £2,571) £2,292

It is the Committee's policy to revalue all investments from time to time. The last revaluation was made on the 31st March, 1970.



3. ADJUSTMENT IN RESPECT OF PRIOR YEAR

During the year the rateable value of certain of the School's properties was reassessed under section 45 of The General Rates Act 1967. This resulted in the School receiving a rate refund amounting to £6,245 covering the ten years to 31st March, 1972.

4. LIVERPOOL LADIES ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE & TRAINING OF GIRLS

Transactions relating to this charity, of which the Committee have been appointed trustees, are not included in the accounts.

5. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Capital expenditure, which had been authorised by the Committee at 31st March 1973 but not provided for in these accounts, amounted to £96,782. No contracts had been placed for any of these amounts.





